

To: Russo, Rebecca[Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov]
From: Levine, Carolyn
Sent: Fri 8/14/2015 9:50:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: several questions // Gold King Mine

FYI

Carolyn Levine
U.S. EPA
Office of Congressional Affairs
(202) 564-1859

Begin forwarded message:

From: EOC Public Information <EOC_Public_Information@epa.gov>
Date: August 14, 2015 at 5:49:46 PM EDT
To: "Cohen, Nancy" <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>, "Lee, Monica" <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>
Cc: "Gartner, Lois" <Gartner.Lois@epa.gov>, "Levine, Carolyn" <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>, "Blizzard, James" <Blizzard.James@epa.gov>, "Wilbur, Jennifer" <Wilbur.Jennifer@epa.gov>, "Hull, George" <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: several questions // Gold King Mine

below language--save highlighted R8 Qs--has been approved by EOC.

QUESTION: Will President Obama declare emergencies in the affected states to open up federal disaster funding?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the White House for this response.

QUESTION: Regarding the hiatus into similar "field investigation work," approximately how many mines does this affect?

RESPONSE: EPA is compiling a list of mining sites under EPA jurisdiction where the Administrator's statement on field investigations would apply.

QUESTION: Does this hiatus just apply to hardrock mines, or other kinds too?

RESPONSE: This hiatus applies to hardrock mines on private lands where EPA has authority to address contamination and cleanup. The Federal Land

Management Agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and the Forest Service) have jurisdiction for characterizing and cleaning up mine sites on federal lands.

QUESTION: How much has EPA spent on cleaning up abandoned mines since, well, as far back as your data goes?

RESPONSE: The agency has used greater than \$4 billion for Superfund expenditures at hard rock mining sites.

QUESTION: Relatedly, do you have any estimates on costs to plug the rest?

RESPONSE: We don't have an estimate to share at this time.

QUESTION: How much have you spent approximately on this particular cleanup?

RESPONSE: Region 8 is working on this...Contacts are Lisa McClain-Vanderpool and Laura Flynn Jenkins

QUESTION: We've learned that this particular EPA cleanup project to plug the mines in the Animas watershed, including Gold King & Sunnyside, cost \$1.5 million and began in July. Can you confirm that?

RESPONSE: Region 8 is working on this... Contacts are Lisa McClain-Vanderpool and Laura Flynn Jenkins

QUESTION: The owner of Gold King mine says EPA has not held Sunnyside and Kennross Corp responsible enough for the chronic leakage and this spill. What's your response to that?

RESPONSE: Region 8 is working on this... Contacts are Lisa McClain-Vanderpool and Laura Flynn Jenkins

STATUS: Last three questions are with Region 8 and still need to be answered. Being reviewed by EOC_Manager. After it's reviewed, it needs to go to reporter and added to Qs and As online.

From: Cohen, Nancy
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 5:44 PM
To: Lee, Monica
Cc: Gartner, Lois; Levine, Carolyn; Blizzard, James; EOC Public Information; Wilbur, Jennifer; Hull, George
Subject: Re: several questions // Gold King Mine

Monica: the EOC PIO desk needs to respond, nancy

On Aug 14, 2015, at 5:29 PM, Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov> wrote:

Ok thank you.

Any word on the other Qs?

Monica Lee
(202) 564-0645
(202) 713-6902

On Aug 14, 2015, at 5:13 PM, Gartner, Lois <Gartner.Lois@epa.gov> wrote:

OCFO is the Agency's official source for that info...nonetheless, yes, the **entire** Superfund budget (which includes much more than actual cleanup work) is around \$1.1 billion.

From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 5:10 PM
To: Cohen, Nancy
Cc: Levine, Carolyn; Blizzard, James; EOC Public Information; Wilbur, Jennifer; Gartner, Lois; Hull, George
Subject: Re: several questions // Gold King Mine

We have to get back to her in the next few minutes or the information will no longer be necessary. Any word?

Monica Lee
(202) 564-0645
(202) 713-6902

On Aug 14, 2015, at 4:44 PM, Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

+ Carolyn Levine and Jim Blizzard - can you help?

Thanks, nancy

Nancy Cohen

U.S. EPA OSWER

202.566.0171

From: Lee, Monica

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 4:34 PM

To: Cohen, Nancy

Cc: EOC Public Information; Wilbur, Jennifer; Gartner, Lois; Hull, George

Subject: Re: several questions // Gold King Mine

+ adding others since Nancy stepped out.

Monica Lee

(202) 564-0645

(202) 713-6902

On Aug 14, 2015, at 4:32 PM, Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov> wrote:

She came back and asked for confirmation on this:

The money to fund the Gold King mine cleanup comes out of EPA's superfund budget, which is a little over \$1 billion.

Nancy can you help confirm on this one?

Monica Lee

(202) 564-0645

(202) 713-6902

On Aug 14, 2015, at 4:18 PM, Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov> wrote:

The most important question is about the funding, she's asking we can give her the last decade of data that this EPA website has for 1993-2005?

Can we get that in the next 45 minutes?

From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 3:56 PM
To: Cohen, Nancy
Cc: EOC Public Information
Subject: RE: several questions // Gold King Mine

Any update? The reporter needs to answers ASAP.

From: Cohen, Nancy
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 2:11 PM
To: Lee, Monica
Cc: EOC Public Information
Subject: Re: several questions // Gold King Mine

Yes

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 14, 2015, at 2:03 PM, Lee, Monica
<Lee.Monica@epa.gov> wrote:

Just making sure we're rushing these As.. Thanks, Nancy.

From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 1:03 PM
To: Cohen, Nancy
Subject: RE: several questions // Gold King Mine

Ok thanks keep me posted. Did you ask them to prioritize these responses? Tom and Liz are anxious to get back to her ASAP.

Thank you!

From: Cohen, Nancy
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 1:01 PM
To: Lee, Monica
Subject: RE: several questions // Gold King Mine

Monica: I forwarded to the EOC Technical expert and cc'd PIO desk. I know we provided answers to some of these yesterday.

Thanks, nancy

Nancy Cohen
U.S. EPA OSWER
202.566.0171

From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 12:48 PM
To: Cohen, Nancy
Subject: FW: several questions // Gold King Mine
Importance: High

Hey Nancy – can you help for a quick turn around on this one for the WSJ? The first question needs to be directed to the White House, and on costs, I think we have to say we don't have estimates to share at this time.

1. ~~Will President Obama declare emergencies in the affected states to open up federal disaster funding? She'll have to ask the WH~~
2. Regarding the hiatus into similar "field investigation work," approximately how many mines does this affect?
3. Does this hiatus just apply to hardrock mines, or other kinds too?
4. How much has EPA spent on cleaning up abandoned mines since, well, as far back as your data goes?
5. ~~Relatedly, do you have any estimates on costs to plug the rest? We don't have an estimate to share at this time.~~
6. How much have you spent approximately on this particular cleanup?
7. We've learned that this particular EPA cleanup project to plug the mines in the Animas watershed, including Gold King & Sunnyside, cost \$1.5 million and began in July. Can you confirm that?
8. The owner of Gold King mine says EPA has not held Sunnyside and Kennross Corp responsible enough for the chronic leakage and this spill. What's your response to that?

Let me know if you're able to help with the rest – thank you!

From: Harder, Amy [<mailto:Amy.Harder@wsj.com>]
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 12:21 PM
To: Reynolds, Thomas; Purchia, Liz; Harrison, Melissa
Subject: RE: several questions // Gold King Mine

Hi Tom, Liz and Melissa, I'm circling back on this. Our broader story is set to be published later this afternoon. I realize you guys have been swamped, but could you at least shed some light on the funding questions? And/or give us the last decade of data that [this EPA website](#) has for 1993-2005?

A response at your earliest convenience would be much appreciated.

Amy

Amy Harder

energy reporter

The Wall Street Journal

O: 202.862.6631

C: 202.906.9629

amy.harder@wsj.com

[@AmyAHarder](#)

From: Harder, Amy
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 8:01 AM
To: 'Reynolds, Thomas'; 'Purchia, Liz'; 'Harrison, Melissa'
Subject: several questions // Gold King Mine

Hi Tom, Liz and Melissa,

Thank you for answering all my questions in the last couple of days. I have a few more questions, not surprisingly. A couple of these I pinged you about yesterday, but I imagine they got lost in the shuffle.

It might be best if you could put us on the phone to talk through some of these questions, though I realize it's an all hands on deck kind of situation right now for you all, so perhaps tomorrow might be better. In any case, would you be able to get back to us on these as soon as you're able? These are questions from me, Dan Frosch in Colorado and

Alexandra Berzon based in L.A. We're the main reporters working on this. I can be reached on my cell phone today at 202.906.9629.

Thanks much.

9. Will President Obama declare emergencies in the affected states to open up federal disaster funding?
10. Regarding the hiatus into similar "field investigation work," approximately how many mines does this affect?
11. Does this hiatus just apply to hardrock mines, or other kinds too?
12. How much has EPA spent on cleaning up abandoned mines since, well, as far back as your data goes?
13. Relatedly, do you have any estimates on costs to plug the rest?
14. How much have you spent approximately on this particular cleanup?
15. We've learned that this particular EPA cleanup project to plug the mines in the Animas watershed, including Gold King & Sunnyside, cost \$1.5 million and began in July. Can you confirm that?
16. The owner of Gold King mine says EPA has not held Sunnyside and Kennross Corp responsible enough for the chronic leakage and this spill. What's your response to that?

Best,

Amy

Amy Harder

energy reporter

The Wall Street Journal

O: 202.862.6631

C: 202.906.9629

amy.harder@wsj.com

[@AmyAHarder](#)